

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants note that a number of editorial amendments have been made to the specification for grammatical and general readability purposes. No new matter has been added.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

A. The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art in view of Hobbs (U.S. 4,875,818).

Claims 1 and 4, as amended, recite that a charging voltage of the capacitor, which is raised by the regenerative energy of the motor when the motor is being stopped, is set lower than a breakdown voltage of the capacitor and the inverter by the overvoltage protecting circuit.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of the cited prior art does not teach or suggest such a feature.

Regarding the Admitted Prior Art, Applicants note that Fig. 5 depicts a capacitor 7, and that Fig. 9 depicts a smoothing capacitor 35 and a voltage detecting circuit 38. As indicated at page 4, lines 20-22 of the specification, if the DC voltage across the smoothing capacitor 35 drops to a predetermined value or less, a transistor 37 is turned off so as to suppress rise of the DC voltage.

Applicants respectfully submit, however, that while the Admitted Prior art discloses that a transistor 37 is turned off so as to suppress a rise in the DC voltage if the DC voltage across the smoothing capacitor 35 drops to a predetermined value or less, the Admitted Prior art does not disclose or suggest that the charging voltage of a capacitor, which is raised by the regenerative energy of the motor when the motor is being stopped, is set lower than a breakdown voltage of the capacitor and an inverter by an overvoltage protecting circuit, as recited in amended claims 1 and 4.

Regarding Hobbs, Applicants note that this reference discloses a bridge rectifier 18 which uses a capacitor 19 to smooth the output of a transformer 16 and the bridge rectifier 18 (see col. 4, lines 29-62). As noted by the Examiner in the Office Action, Hobbs also discloses a varistor 50 that is used to protect the circuit from high voltage transients caused by the collapse of the magnetic field in the motor on shutdown (see col. 4, lines 60-62).

Applicants respectfully submit, however, that while Hobbs discloses a varistor 50 that is used to protect the circuit from high voltage transients, Hobbs does not disclose or even remotely suggest that the charging voltage of a capacitor, which is raised by the regenerative energy of the motor when the motor is being stopped, is set lower than a breakdown voltage of the capacitor and an inverter by an overvoltage protecting circuit, as recited in amended claims 1 and 4.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited prior art fails to disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious all of the features recited in amended claims 1 and 4. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 4 are patentable over the cited prior art, an indication of which is kindly requested.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1, and claim 5 depends from claim 4. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

B. The Examiner has rejected claims 3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art in view of Hobbs and further in view of Ruckman (U.S. 4,571,656).

Claim 3 depends from claim 1, and claim 6 depends from claim 4. Applicants respectfully submit that Ruckman fails to cure the deficiencies of the Admitted Prior Art and

Hobbs, as discussed above, with respect to claims 1 and 4. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3 and 6 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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